

As evidenced with the Ebola outbreak in 2013, which decimated populations across Western Africa, if the proper effort is not implemented proactively, the consequences can be truly devastating.

The Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act recently passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously with bipartisan support.

This bill would establish international border security standards to close security gaps that currently exist that allow terrorists and foreign fighters to travel internationally.

These standards would be developed in coordination with all relevant U.S. Government departments and agencies in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, Attorney General, Director of National Intelligence, and Director of the FBI.

Our resources would be utilized in the most efficient way possible, with a special focus on high-risk and medium-risk countries to boost security.

A reporting system would also be established to monitor efforts of foreign governments to combat terrorism and foreign fighter travel and to suspend foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply.

Furthermore, the bill would put in place a monitoring system that would screen for infectious diseases to contain and prevent any potential outbreaks, which will help quarantine viruses by authorizing the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide the necessary equipment and supplies to mitigate the risk or threat of infectious diseases such as Zika, a disease that has caused widespread alarm as it has continued to spread across the global community.

I also thank Congressman JOHN KATKO for his assistance as well.

The Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2016 is a bipartisan measure long overdue to not only protect our homeland from terrorism, but also ensure the U.S. is always prepared to combat the spread of any infectious diseases.

I strongly encourage my colleagues in Congress to join me in this important effort to address a serious national security threat and vote today to pass the Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2016 to keep America safe.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this commonsense legislation.

Thousands of Europeans who have traveled to fight alongside ISIS and other terrorist groups throughout the world pose a serious threat to our national security.

One of the problems is making sure that those terrorists who go fight in Iraq, Syria, and other places don't go back to their home countries in Europe

undetected because, once a person gets in Europe, it is easier for Europeans to travel to the United States from Europe than it is from some other countries. Terrorists often travel through a number of countries before they get home, and some of these countries have very good border security and others not so good.

The United States has the technology to help our friends and our allies track down these bad guys. But our bureaucracy, of course, has gotten in the way of national security. This bill expedites the process, cutting through the red tape and giving our partners the tools they need to track terrorist travel throughout the world and in their countries.

Terrorist travel is not a problem we can solve by ourselves. We must stop terrorists before they show up in America. We must work with our partners overseas.

I strongly support this legislation.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank the Congressman from New York, Major LEE ZELDIN, for authoring this bill.

Let me also again express my appreciation for the cooperation of Ranking Member ENGEL and to commend his work and, also, that of our colleague from California (Mr. BERA), on this legislation.

The 9/11 Commission states in their report to the Congress on recommendations: "The U.S. Government cannot meet its own obligations to the American people to prevent the entry of terrorists without a major effort to collaborate with other governments. We should do more to exchange terrorist information with trusted allies, and raise U.S. and global border security standards for travel and for border crossing over the medium and long term through extensive international cooperation."

This bill does that. It adds another component, and that is as it relates to the collateral benefit, which will come through trying to prevent infectious diseases borne by these exotic vectors, like these mosquitoes that bring the Zika virus or like Ebola.

So this bill, H.R. 4314, increases collaboration with our allies through improved information sharing, tightened border security screening methods overseas, and the Department of State and Department of Homeland Security are required to accelerate the delivery of certain border security systems and prioritizing delivery to countries deemed to be at high or medium risk for foreign fighter or terrorist travel.

□ 1700

It also establishes minimum border security standards. The Department of State and the Department of Homeland

Security are required to submit an annual report to us in Congress detailing how countries are meeting the minimum border security standards established there.

The annual report will not only assess partner country efforts over the previous 12 months, but it is also going to identify those areas that are most necessary for improvement. Countries that don't meet border security standards could have their nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related U.S. assistance suspended, cut off. Suspension of assistance is meant to ensure that countries take the necessary steps to improve their border security.

I again want to thank Mr. ZELDIN and other members of the Committee on Homeland Security's bipartisan Task Force on Combating Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel and all the bipartisan cosponsors for their support for this bill, which deserves our unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4314, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### FORECLOSURE RELIEF AND EXTENSION FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT OF 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2393) to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2393

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2015".

#### SEC. 2. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF EXTENDED PERIOD OF PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES RELATING TO MORTGAGES, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE, AND EVICTION.

Section 710(d) of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-154; 50 U.S.C. 3953 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2017"; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "January 1, 2016" and inserting "January 1, 2018".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials on S. 2393.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2393, the Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2015. This bill was introduced by our colleague from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and passed the Senate in December.

This bill would extend, through December 31, 2017, mortgage-related protections for servicemembers who are called to Active Duty under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. Specifically, these protections would prohibit a bank or mortgage company from selling, foreclosing, or seizing a property owned by a servicemember without a court order for 1 year after a servicemember returns from Active Duty.

This protection allows servicemembers the opportunity to avoid foreclosure or seizure during this 1-year period following their service, giving them the opportunity to hopefully get back on track with mortgage payments.

In 2008, the report produced by the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves found that the threat of foreclosure is a stressor that should not be placed on members of the Armed Forces upon their return to civilian life.

Today, as a shrinking Active Duty force leaves more and more operational responsibilities to the Guard and Reserves, these home foreclosure protections are more important than ever. This year it is expected that more than 10,000 members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserves will cycle through to Europe, nearly double the number of last year. Many thousands more will serve in other theaters of operation all over the globe.

I believe it is essential that we ensure members of the military returning home have plenty of time to regain their financial footing, particularly when they have selflessly given up their civilian jobs to deploy with their Guard or Reserve units.

This protection has been extended several times by Congress and has been considered a noncontroversial extension of existing authorities. Without our action on this bill, the protection would slip to only a 90-day period of foreclosure protection and could im-

pact servicemembers as early as the end of this month.

I would also note that the mortgage industry is supportive of this extension. I thank them for their advocacy and for their continued support of veterans and active and reserve servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER) for their work on this issue, as they also had similar bills to S. 2393 pending before this body.

Once again, I urge all Members to support S. 2393.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 2393, the Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2015.

This bill provides a 2-year extension of current protections so veterans transitioning out of the military don't lose their homes that they owned before beginning their military service, if they are experiencing financial hardships for up to a year after they leave the service.

S. 2393 allows courts to pause proceedings to foreclose on or seize a home for 1 year following service, allowing time for transitioning soldiers to adjust their financial situations, as well as all other aspects of their lives, to civilian life.

We owe our veterans the benefit of the doubt when they may have missed payments while facing the tough realities of serving our Nation. There is broad support for this provision in both Chambers of Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Millions of people are losing their homes and have lost their homes to foreclosure. I have worked with the banking community, Federal HUD, and NACA. Our veterans and other individuals are still losing their homes, and now many churches in my district are closing and losing their properties through foreclosure.

I am pleased that we have this bipartisan legislation, but this bill is a temporary fix. We need to work together, as a Congress, to find a permanent fix so that our veterans, other individuals, and churches are protected from foreclosure.

Again, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), for bringing this legislation forward. I urge the passage of S. 2393.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support S. 2393.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2393, the "Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Service Members Act of 2015," which amends the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012" by extending through December 31, 2017, the provisions that protect service members from actions to foreclose on a mortgage for one year after their service.

S. 2393 prohibits the sale, foreclosure, or seizure of a service member's mortgaged property without a court order or a waiver from the service member.

In 1940, Congress passed the "Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act" (SSCRA) to provide protections and rights to individuals based on their service in the U.S. armed forces.

In 2003, Congress passed the "Service Members Civil Relief Act," which was modernized and reauthorized the protections and rights previously available to service members under SSCRA.

The Service Members Civil Relief Act protects service members in the event that their military service impedes their ability to meet financial obligations incurred before entry into active military service.

In 2012, the "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012" amended the SCRA to extend the timeframe from nine months to one year in which service members are protected from the sale, foreclosure, or seizure of mortgaged property and any actions filed against them for an inability to comply with the terms of the mortgaged obligation.

The "Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Services Members Act of 2014," which passed the House by voice vote, extended this provision through December 31, 2015.

Mr. Speaker, our service members keep us safe from all manner of threats around the globe, so the least we can do is to keep them and their families safe from foreclosure as they transition back to civilian life.

I urge my colleges to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2393.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AIRPORT AND AIRWAY EXTENSION ACT OF 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4721) to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment: